

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 003700

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 8 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FANK, SUPPORTED BY T-28S AND APCs, BATTLES REBELS NEAR  
POCHENTONG, FIVE MILES FROM PP. CASUALTIES MAINLY  
CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE, "SCORES" REPORTED KILLED.  
REBEL FIRE DAMAGES THREE CHOPPERS. THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS  
REPORTEDLY ABDUCTED BY REBEL FORCE FROM HEAVILY-POPULATED  
AREA (UPI NYT, CHITRIB). GKR RUSHES MORE THAN 3000  
TROOPS TO AREA NW OF PP TO BLOCK "INSURGENT" THRUST  
THAT REACHED WITHIN ONE MILE OF POCHENTONG. NATIONAL  
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POLICE SOURCES SEE MAJOR EFFORT TO PIERCE PP'S DEFENSE  
PERIMETER, BUT NOT CERTAIN WHETHER DRIVE IS BEGINNING OF  
OVERALL ASSAULT ON CAPITAL. BRIGADE COMMANDER SAYS  
REBELS SHOT ABOUT 50 VILLAGERS, FIELD REPORTS SAY HUNDREDS

OF REFUGEES FLEEING AREA. VILLAGERS TELL REPORTERS OF SEEING "MANY, MANY" DEAD REBELS BEING CARRIED TO REAR (AP SUN, WP). US SOURCES ESTIMATE 3000 REBELS PUSHED INTO PP'S NW DEFENSE ZONE OVER PAST TWO DAYS, THROWN BACK BY FANK ARMORED UNITS THAT FIELD REPORTS SAY CAPTURED ALMOST 600 WEAPONS. RAPID GKR RESPONSE MAY HAVE CAUGHT ENEMY OFF BALANCE (AP, WP).

2. PP POLICE CAPTURE 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL ACCUSED OF THROWING

TWO GRENADES AT POLICE POST, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING TWO OFFICERS, IN THIRD TERRORIST GRENADE ATTACK IN THREE DAYS (AP, WP).

3. HANOI RADIO ATTACKS STATEMENT BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER HAT US AIR SUPPORT OF GVN MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF NVN LAUNCHES ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE IN SVN (WP, CSM).

4. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAYS US HAS "EVERY EXPECTATION" THAT GVN WILL NOW BE ABLE TO MEET FUEL NEEDS BY OPEN MARKET PURCHASES INSTEAD OF CONTINUING TO DRAW DOWN US WAR RESERVE STOCKS (REUTER, NYT).

5. GVN MILITARY COMMAND SAYS COMMUNISTS ATTACK ARVN POSITIONS IN QUANG DUC AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES AND FIRE ON CIVILIANS IN DELTA, KILLING TWO INCLUDING CATHOLIC PRIEST (AP, WP). MILITARY SOURCES SAY THIEU FEARS VC OFFENSIVE, ORDERS MAXIMUM SECURITY DURING TET AND ANNIVERSARY OF C-F AGREEMENT (UPI, NYT). ARVN AND VC OFFICERS FLY TO INSPECT COMMUNIST-HELD LOC NINH AIRFIELD IN FIRST PRACTICAL STEP TOWARD EXCHANGING MORE THAN 4000 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POWS IN NEXT TWO WEEKS (REUTER, NYT).

6. MARKHAM (NYT) REPORTS FROM PLEIKU THAT NVN BULLDOZERS AND SVN FIGHTER-BOMBERS ARE FIGHTING DUEL IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, WITH BULLDOZERS WINNING. GVN COMMANDERS UNCLASSIFIED

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WATCH APPREHENSIVELY AS NVN ENGINEERS SWIFTLY EXPAND AND IMPROVE ROAD AND TRAILS THAT WIND DOWN WESTERN FLANK OF SVN, AND POKE EASTWARD AT STRATEGIC JUNCTURES. BESIDES N-S AXIS (CALLED CORRIDOR 613), COMMUNISTS HAVE DEVELOPED W-E TRAIL SYSTEMS THAT MAY COME CLOSE TO CUTTING SVN IN TWO. GVN UNSETTLED BY TRAILS THAT JUT OMINOUSLY INTO DISPUTED AND GOVT. AREAS. VNAF PLANES RECENTLY REPORTED KNOCKING OUT TANKS, BULLDOZERS AND TRUCKS IN KONTUM AREA, BUT WORK GOES ON. THIEU HAS ORDERED ARVN HIGHLAND COMMAND CUT OFF NVN ROAD SYSTEM, THOUGH SVN OFFICERS SAY PRIVATELY THAT LIMITED AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE CAN ONLY HIT FRACTION OF TRAFFIC; BESIDES, COMMUNISTS MAY STILL BE SENDING BULK OF SUPPLIES THROUGH BOMB-FREE LAOS AND CAMBODIA. NVN ROADS

AND TRAILS THOUGHT TO HAVE POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTENT, SINCE GIVE PRG CLAIM TO TERRITORY. ARVN IN QUANG DUC TRYING PREVENT COMMUNISTS FROM USING ROUTE 14, BUT EFFORT DENUDES REST OF MR2 OF TROOPS. MOST ARVN COMMANDERS DON'T SEE MAJOR THRUST IN HIGHLANDS BEFORE MARCH WHEN CLOUDS INHIBIT AIR STRIKES. COMMUNIST GOAL THOUGHT TO BE TO CONNECT ROAD SYSTEM TO ROUTE 14 AND DOWN TO LOC NINH, BUT THIS WILL MEAN MORE MAJOR FIGHTING IN QUANG DUC.

JAPAN

7. NEWSPAPERS BANNER GOJ'S DEVALUING YEN BY 6.7 PERCENT, THIRD FALL SINCE START OF ARAB OIL CUTBACKS (AP, SUN; UPI, BALT. N-A JAN. 7; CHITRIB, NYDN, WSJ; WP'S GOSKHO). FROM TOKYO, NYT'S BUTTERFIELD OBSERVES THAT YEN DROP "HAD COME TO BE CONSIDERED ALMOST INEVITABLE BY MANY JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN" OVER PAST FEW WEEKS, AND CITES MITI AND BANK OF JAPAN OFFICIALS SAYING PRIVATELY THEY HOPE YEN CAN NOW BE HELD AT AROUND 300 TO THE DOLLAR.

8. POND (CSM), IN TOKYO, NOTES THAT LATEST YEN DEVALUATION WILL HELP MAKE JAPAN'S EXPORTS CHEAPER AND MORE COMPETITIVE ABROAD, ENABLING TOKYO TO PAY ITS INCREASED OIL BILL; IT ALSO REVERSES SITUATION OF YEAR AGO "WHEN EVERYTHING WAS BEING DONE TO MAKE AMERICAN EXPORTS MORE COMPETITIVE. ALL THIS MAY LEAD TO FRICTION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND TOKYO." CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN TOKYO, SEES GOJ "APPARENTLY DEFYING THE WISHES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN DIPLOMATS" IN DECIDING TO WITHDRAW ARTIFICIAL SUPPORT FOR YEN.

9. SONY'S SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR IS WIDELY QUOTED AS FEELING LATEST YEN DROP WILL HAVE NO SPECIAL IMPACT ON HIS COMPANY (CHITRIB, NYDN, WSJ); OTHER MAJOR JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS ALL SAY THEY ANTICIPATED YEN DEVELOPMENT, AND MITSUI OFFICIAL CONTENDS HIS FIRM EXPECTS ANOTHER DEVALUATION IN SPRING (AP, SUN). MOTOROLA, ZENITH AND OTHERS IN US ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY ARE NOT UPSET OVER YEN DEVALUATION, ALTHOUGH THEY ACKNOWLEDGE IT COULD GIVE JAPANESE COMPETITORS BOOST (CHITRIB).

10. TOKYO RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORTS JAPAN'S ECONOMY MAY EXPERIENCE 3.1 PERCENT DROP IN ITS RECORD ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN FY 1974, BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT JAPANESE INDUSTRY WILL RECEIVE 7 PERCENT LESS CRUDE OIL THAN IN FY 1973 (JOC).

11. ON ARRIVAL IN MANILA TO START FIVE-NATION SEA TOUR, TANAKA CALLS FOR STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN JAPAN AND REGION

BASED ON "MUTUAL TRUST"; MARCOS PROCLAIMS GOP READINESS TO JOIN JAPAN IN EFFORTS TO FORGE CLOSER REGIONAL UNITY, AND ROMULO RENEWS CALL FOR JAPAN TO LAUNCH SEA AID PLAN (WP). IN MANILA, HALLORAN (NYT) NOTES THAT WELCOMING AIRPORT SCENE WAS "LOW KEY" -- NO BRASS BAND PLAYED, NO CANNON THUNDERED IN SALUTE, NEITHER LEADER MADE SPEECH -- AND IN CITY, CROWDS WERE SPARSE, CONSISTING MOSTLY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN LET OUT TO CHEER VISITOR.

12. GAIMUSHO ANNOUNCES TANAKA WILL MEET THAI STUDENT LEADERS JAN. 10, IN EFFORT TO "PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN JAPAN AND THAILAND, IMMEDIATELY AFTER PM SEES SANYA (REUTER).

13. SUN'S WU, IN HK, CITES OHIRA'S CONCLUSION OF TRADE PACT WITH PRC -- "MOST VISIBLE OUTCOME" OF HIS FOUR-DAY CHINA VISIT, AND ONE THAT COULD SERVE UNCLASSIFIED

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AS BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE PRC TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING US.

INDONESIA

14. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, SEES TANAKA VISIT AND JAPAN'S ENERGY SCARE BODING WELL FOR OIL-RICH INDONESIA. PM GOES WITH OFFER OF 200 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FOR NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT, AND INDONESIA ALREADY ENJOYS JAPAN'S LOWEST INTEREST RATES IN ECON AID, "JUST BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO SUPPLY JAPAN WITH OIL AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS." GOJ'S NEW FOREIGN-AID POLICY, HAMMERED OUT SINCE OIL CRISIS, "SHOULD BENEFIT INDONESIA STILL FURTHER."

15. SUHARTO GIVES PARLIAMENT OUTLINE FOR 11.85 BILLION DOLLAR FIVE-YEAR PLAN DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE ECON GROWTH OF ABOUT 7.5 PERCENT ANNUALLY. NEW PLAN, STARTING IN APRIL, TO PLACE MORE STRESS ON PROVISION OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND HOUSING FOR PEOPLE AND TO IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND COUNTERING UNEMPLOYMENT (UPI WP, JOC).

16. SUHARTO CALLS ON INDONESIANS TO USE TERMS FROM THEIR OWN LANGUAGE INSTEAD OF FOREIGN PHRASES SUCH AS "SUPERMARKET," "YOUTH CENTER" AND "SHOPPING CENTER" (REUTER).

KOREA

17. ROKG ANNOUNCES PARK HAS INVOKED CONSTITUTIONAL

POWER TO TAKE "NECESSARY EMERGENCY MEASURES" FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS OF STUDENT-INTELLECTUAL PROTESTS. PARK'S FIRST EMERGENCY MEASURE BANS ALL OPPOSITION TO NEW CONSTITUTION (REUTER).

18. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY JOINS CIVIC LEADERS AND STUDENTS IN CALLING FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRACY; DECIDES IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO TAKE LEAD IN DEMANDING CONSTITUTION REVISION (REUTER). CHUNG KU-YUNG AND YE CHUNG-HO DEFECT FROM PARK'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTY IN PROTEST AGAINST SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM (AP NYT, NYDN: WP). PARTY SPOKESMAN ACCUSES THEM OF "HYPOCRITICAL AND TRAITOROUS" ACT (AP, BALT. N-A, JAN. 7). NINE WELL-KNOWN KOREAN WRITERS ARRESTED IN SEOUL MONDAY FOLLOWING MEETING IN WHICH THEY ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR PROTEST CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVT. SUPPRESSION (NYT). CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, SUGGESTS ARRESTS MAY SIGNAL END OF PARK'S "SOFT LINE" TOWARD DISSIDENTS.

THAILAND

19. CHIEF OF THAI COUNTER-INSURGENCY AGENCY SAYS HE IS RECOMMENDING FORMAL PROTEST TO US CIA OVER ACTION OF ITS AGENT SENDING RTG WHAT PURPORTED TO BE REBEL TRUCE OFFER (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

20. GLOBE'S KNOX (JAN. 6) REPORTS OBSERVATIONS ABOUT BACH MAI HOSPITAL BY PEACE ACTIVIST CORA WEISS MADE DURING HER RECENT NVN VISIT. WEISS CLAIMS NVN VERY BITTER ABOUT DEATHS OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND PATIENTS CAUSED BY USAF PRE-CHRISTMAS 1972 BOMBING, BUT SAYS WHAT THEY WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO VISITORS IS THEIR FORWARD-LOOKING ATTITUDE AND RECONSTRUCTION PLANS. PROGRESS IS SLOW IN RECONSTRUCTING HOSPITAL BECAUSE HANOI HAS HIGHER PRIORITIES, SUCH AS RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES. BUT NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR REBUILDING BACH MAI, WHICH NVN ESTIMATES WILL COST BETWEEN 30 AND 40 MILLION DOLS. DURING VISIT, WEISS NOTED CRATES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FROM SWEDEN, CUBA, SWITZERLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER NATIONS. ORGANIZERS OF CAMBRIDGE-BASED BACH MAI REBUILDING FUND HOPE TO RECONSTRUCT HOSPITAL'S EAR, NOSE, THROAT INSTITUTE, REPORTED TWO-THIRDS DESTROYED BY US BOMBS. ACCORDING MEDICAL AID TO INDOCHINA (GROUP THAT ORGANIZED FUND), BY LATE JAN. 1973 CONTRIBUTIONS CAME IN AT RATE OF 100,000 DOLS PER WEEK. AFTER C-F,

CONTRIBUTIONS DECLINED, STANDING AT ONLY THIRD OF  
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WAY TOWARD 3 MILLION DOLS GOAL. COLLECTION OF  
REMAINING 2 MILLION DOLS MAY BE CONTINGENT ON WHETHER  
FUND CAN ATTRACT FOUNDATION SUPPORT. UNTIL LATE  
NOVEMBER FOUNDATIONS COULD NOT BE APPROACHED BECAUSE  
BACH MAI FUND LACKED TAX EXEMPT STATUS, WHICH HAS  
SINCE BEEN AWARDED. SO FAR MONEY CONTRIBUTED HAS  
BEEN USED TO BUY EQUIPMENT, 600,000 DOLS WORTH OF  
WHICH - MOST PURCHASED IN HK AND NONE DONATED BY  
US MANUFACTURERS - REACHED BACH MAI IN SEPTEMBER  
AND DECEMBER.

21. GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW (JAN. 6) WRITES ABOUT  
JAPAN'S APPROXIMATELY 2 MILLION "UNTOUCHABLES"  
(BURAKUMINS), PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING IN KYOTO.  
NOTES THAT THOUGH THEY ARE IDENTICAL WITH ALL OTHER  
JAPANESE IN APPEARANCE, LANGUAGE AND RACE, BURAKUMINS  
ARE - DUE TO THEIR ANCESTRY, PLACE OF BIRTH AND  
RESIDENCE - HANDICAPPED IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT  
AND EVEN MARRIAGE. DESCRIBES BURAKUMINS AS LOW MAN  
ON TOTEM POLE IN FEUDAL JAPAN, WHICH WAS DIVIDED  
INTO FOUR CLASSES: WARRIOR, FARMER, ARTISAN AND  
TRADESMAN - WITH BURAKUMINS LACKING CLASS DESIGNA-  
TION. REPORTS THAT BECAUSE OF GROWING FRUSTRATION OF  
OUTCASTS AND GROWING SHAME OF SOME CITY ELDERS, KYOTO  
FORMED BURAKUMIN AFFAIRS DIVISION IN CITY HALL  
IN MID-1960S. SOME 30 ADMINISTRATORS AND 70 FIELD  
WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED TRYING TO IMPROVE LIVING  
CONDITIONS, CREATE JOBS, AND BREAK DOWN COMPANY AND  
CORPORATE PREJUDICES AGAINST BURAKUMINS.

22. GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS (CSM) IN PEKING  
REPORTS PEOPLE'S DAILY APPLAUDING HUANG HSUAI, 12-  
YEAR-OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT WHO DEFIED HER TEACHER,  
FOR "DARING TO OPEN FIRE AGAINST THE PERNICIOUS IN-  
FLUENCE OF THE REVISIONIST EDUCATIONAL LINE," AND  
COMMENDING HER AS AN EXAMPLE IN CURRENT ANTI-REVISIONIST  
CAMPAIGN. NOTES THAT HUANG IS SECOND STUDENT HERO OF  
THE CAMPAIGN; FIRST WAS YOUNG MAN LAUDED FOUR  
MONTHS AGO FOR LETTER CONDEMNING UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE  
EXAMS- CORE OF HUANG'S CASE AGAINST HER TEACHER  
RESTED ON HIS ALLEGED INTOLERANCE OF CRITICISM, PEKING  
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PAPER CARRIED THINGS ONE STEP FURTHER AND TOLD ALL WOULD-  
BE REBELS NOT TO MAKE THE FOCUS OF THEIR CAMPAIGN TOO  
NARROW. IT INDICATED THAT "POISONOUS INFLUENCE OF  
THE REVISIONIST LINE OF EDUCATION" WENT MUCH BEYOND

TEACHERS' ATTITUDES , AFFECTING ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF EDUCATION. THUS, TEACHERS AT ALL LEVELS NOW

FACE PROSPECT OF OPEN REWOLT BY THEIR STUDENTS, WHO CAN CITE NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN PEOPLE'S DAILY FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

23. SUN'S ISAACS IN HONG KONG REPORTS CHINA-WATCHERS ASKING WITH GREATER FREQUENCY WHETHER CHINA IS IN GRIP OF INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE, AND WHETHER CHOU IS LOSING INFLUENCE TO RADICALS. REVIEWS EVIDENCE BUT FINDS INDICATORS CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTIONARY; OUTSIDE WORLD KNOWS SO LITTLE OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S INNER LIFE THAT NO FIRM JUDGMENTS ARE POSSIBLE.

24. NYT'S DURDIN IN TAIPEI OBSERVES THAT PEOPLE THERE HAVE CEASED TO BE SHOCKED OR DEPRESSED BY NEW IMPROVEMENTS IN US-PRC RELATIONS. FAITH IN US SUPPORT GROWS WITH EACH REPETITION OF WASHINGTON ASSURANCE THAT US WILL CONTINUE FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF GRC, WILL OBSERVE DEFENSE COMMITMENT, WILL ENCOURAGE US INVESTMENT. QUOTES FOREIGN OBSERVERS THAT TAIWAN BUSINESSMEN AND ORDINARY CITIZEN SEEM TO ASSUME THAT THINGS WILL GO ON AS THEY ARE MORE OR LESS PERMANENTLY; BUT DURDIN SAYS HIGH OFFICIALS REALIZE THAT EVENTUAL "NORMALIZATION" OF US-PRC RELATIONS IS EXPRESS OBJECTIVE OF WASHINGTON AND THIS COULD MEAN LOSS OF US RECOGNITION AND MILITARY PROTECTION FOR TAIWAN. GRC STILL HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 38 NATIONS. IN MOST OF LARGER NATIONS WHICH TAIPEI NO LONGER HAS FULL RELATIONS, TAIWAN CONDUCTS GROWING TRADE AND MAINTAINS CONTACTS THROUGH TRADE MISSIONS, INFO OFFICES, BUSINESS CONCERNS, AND CULTURAL AND SPORTS MISSIONS. SERIOUS REVERSES ARE FEARED THIS YEAR IF SOME OR ALL ASEAN MEMBERS ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING. SINGAPORE, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA DO NOT NOW HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH TAIWAN, BUT PHILS AND THAILAND DO, AND THEIR RECOGNITION OF PEKING WOULD HURT. SINGAPORE, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA MAINTAIN CONSIDERABLE TRADE, CULTURAL AND OTHER EXCHANGES WITH TAIWAN THAT PROBABLY WOULD BE SCALED DOWN IF THEY RECOGNIZED PEKING. SINGAPORE AND PHILS EVEN GOT ARMS FROM TAIPEI, AND SINGAPORE GETS MILITARY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. EUROPEAN NATIONS THAT WERE NEGATIVE TOWARD TAIWAN ARE NOW MODERATING THEIR ATTITUDE, PERMITTING EASY NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL FROM TAIWAN AND PROVIDING OFFICES TO HELP WITH GROWING TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN TAIWAN BY EUROPEANS. WITH WORLD TRADE EXPECTED TO TOTAL MORE THAN 8 BILLION DOLS THIS YEAR, TAIPEI IS COUNTING ON ECON POWER TO MAINTAIN

ITS DEALINGS WITH MOST COUNTRIES.

25. NYT'S CLARITY IN BANGKOK DESCRIBES THAILAND'S MANIFOLD PROBLEMS, AMONG THEM US ECON AND MILITARY INFLUENCE. RTG HAS APPROVED NORTHROP CORPORATION PROJECT TO BUILD SECOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO SERVE BANGKOK; BUT PROJECT HAS DRAWN OPPOSITION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH CLAIM THAT AIRPORT IS NOT NEEDED AND WOULD HAVE TO BE OPERATED AT LOSS TO THAILAND AND PROFIT TO THE US DEVELOPER. QUESTION OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IS SIMMERING, BUT NOT STIRRING MUCH ACTIVE PROTEST. SEVERAL THOUSAND US TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN IN RECENT MONTHS BUT US POSTURE WAS NEGATIVELY UNDERSCORED AGAIN BY RECENT CIA LETTER.

26. FROM BANGKOK, CSM'S CRITCHFIELD NOTES THAT THAILAND'S "REVOLUTION" HAS SUDDENLY SLOWED TO VERY POLITE PACE. ASCRIBES THIS TO CULTURAL AND POLITICAL REASONS. SANYA HAS STRESSED SERENE GENIUS OF BUDDHISM AS WHAT SUSTAINS BANGKOK AND REST OF NATION; AND IN THIS SPIRIT HE HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO METE OUT PUNISHMENT TO SUPPORTERS OF OLD, DISCREDITED REGIME. ALSO, HE HAS WARNED THAT TOO MUCH POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION WOULD BE MISTAKE. QUOTES VETERAN FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND MANY ORDINARY THAIS AS REGARDING OCT.15 SHIFT OF POWER AS NOT REALLY VERY REVOLUTIONARY. POWER REMAINS WITHIN CIRCLE OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALWAYS  
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## Message Attributes

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